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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/640,838	08/16/2000	Hansjorg Sinn	8484-084-999	5422

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

HUFF, SHEELA JITENDRA

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/640,838	SINN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sheela J Huff	1642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2002.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 4,5,15,17,18,20-27,30-40,42 and 43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 4,5,15,17,18,20-27,30-40,42 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Disposition of Claims

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 1/31/02 has been considered. Applicant's arguments are deemed to be persuasive-in-part.

Claims 4-5, 15, 17-18, 20-27, 30-40 and 42-43 are pending.

All of the outstanding rejections are withdrawn except for the double patenting rejection.

***Response to Arguments
Double Patenting***

Claims 4-5, 15, 17-18, 20-27, 30-40 and 42-43 remain provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 4-5 and 14-43 of copending Application No. 09/641026. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. The reason for this rejection is of record in paper no. 5, mailed 10/01/01.

Applicant indicates that 09/641026 will be abandoned. This rejection is maintained until the abandonment of 09/641026.

New Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 4-5, 25-26 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

These claims are dependent on cancelled claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 15, 4-5, 17-18, 23, 26-27, 32, 38 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan et al US 5066789 in view of Spector US

3976763 and Wong, Chemistry of Protein Conjugation and Cross-linking, CRC Press Inc. 1991 pp. 63-67.

Srinivasan et al disclose the linking of a variety of difference drugs, including fluorouracil, and methotrexate (col., 4, lines 45+) to human serum albumin (col. 20 lines 15+). The albumin is in native form because it is has not been modified prior to coupling.

The only difference between the instant invention and the reference is that the refence does not use an azo linker.

Spector discloses the use of azo linkers to link a active substance to albumin and clearly suggests the use of human serum albumin as the albumin (see col. 1, lines 19+ and col. 2, lines 1-10).

Wong shows the typical structure of an azo compound (see Table 3), which reads on the structure of claim 18 and that a variety of different linkers are available to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the many different linkers available to one of ordinary skill in the art and in view of the fact that it is known in art to conjugate active substances through an azo linker to human serum albumin, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use the azo linker in the conjugates of the primary reference. Absent objective evidence to the contrary, the human serum albumin of the primary reference is not regarded as exogenous by the subject.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela J Huff whose telephone number is 703-305-7866. The examiner can normally be reached on M,Th 5:30 am-2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa can be reached on 703-308-3995. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

Sheela J. Huff
Sheela J Huff
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1642

sjh
April 4, 2002